

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0005] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0005]** In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the reclining chair includes a pair of side assemblies interconnected at a rear portion by a rear frame rail and at a forward portion by a front frame rail. An actuation mechanism including a drive rod and a front support rod is suspended within the chair frame and operably coupled to a leg rest assembly having an pantograph linkage mechanism detachably coupled to the support shaft. The drive rod extends through a drive motor for selectively rotating the drive rod to extend the leg rest assembly. A pantograph linkage extends and retracts the leg rest in response to rotation of the drive rod by the drive motor. A drive link rotatably connected to the drive rod engages a follower link of the pantograph linkage to extend the leg rest assembly. A return spring mechanism is interconnected between the pantograph linkage and the chair frame for biasing the pantograph linkage towards the retracted position. The drive link is configured to disengage the follower link if retraction of the leg rest is obstructed, thereby uncoupling the pantograph linkage ~~for~~ from the motor-driven drive rod.

Please replace Paragraph [0021] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0021]** Left and right return spring mechanisms 36, hereinafter referred to singularly, are interconnected between pantograph linkage 30 and rear frame rail member ~~20~~18. The return spring mechanism 36 includes a support bracket 38

extending from the rear frame rail member ~~20~~18 and a spring member 40 interposed between the rear frame rail member ~~20~~18 and the pantograph linkage 30. As presently preferred, spring member 40 is a helical coil spring having a relatively high preload to maintain the leg rest assembly in a retracted position and a relatively low spring rate to minimize the retraction force. Tuning the spring member accordingly minimizes the counter force which the drive motor 32 must overcome to rotate the drive rod, while at the same time minimizes the retraction force imparted on an obstruction of the leg rest assembly.

Please replace Paragraph [0022] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0022]** The support bracket 38 has a hook portion 42 which extends through a slot 44 formed the rear frame rail member ~~20~~18 and captures the upper edge 46 thereof. Support bracket 38 is cantilevered from the chair frame 12 and extends downwardly and forwardly from the rear frame rail member ~~20~~18 and terminates at end 46 which receives one end of spring member 40. The bracket 38 is able to support the spring of the spring member 40 without fasteners securing it to the chair frame assembly 14. As such, the position of the support bracket 38 relative to the rear frame rail 20 maybe readily adjusted. A stud 50 (as shown in Figure 4) extends from pantograph linkage 30 and receives the other end of spring member 40. Return spring mechanism 36 biases the follower link 64 rearwardly in a counterclockwise direction to urge the pantograph linkage 30 towards the retracted position.

Please replace Paragraph [0023] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0023]** Front frame member assembly ~~22-20~~ is a multi-piece assembly including front frame board 52 and a pair of front frame brackets 54 extending from opposite lateral ends of front frame board 52. Spacer link 56 is interconnected between drive rod 22, front support shaft 24 and frame board 52 to further integrate actuation mechanism 16 with chair frame assembly 14.

Please replace Paragraph [0024] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0024]** As best seen in Figures 2 and 3, spacer link 56 includes a rear brace 58 generally supported on drive rod 22 which extends forwardly and upwardly towards the front support shaft 24. Thus, the rear brace 58 of spacer link 56 is supported by drive rod 22, while permitting relative rotation therein. Spacer link 56 also includes a front brace 60 that receives front support shaft 24 near the upper end thereof. Front brace 60 extends forwardly and upwardly from front support shaft 24 and is secured to front frame board 52 to provide cantilevered support for the drive rod 22 through the rear brace 58.[.] Front brace 60 and rear brace 58 of spacer link 56 are secured together with threaded fasteners 62.

Please replace Paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0027]** Similarly, pantograph linkage 30 is suspended from front support shaft 24 by leg rest swing bracket 72. Leg rest swing bracket 72 receives front support shaft 24 and is releasably secured to leg rest swing arm 74. Threaded fastener 76 releasably secures leg rest swing arm 74 with leg rest swing bracket ~~74~~72. In this way, the pantograph linkage 30 may be detached from the drive rod 22 and front support shaft 24 to facilitate field service and replacement thereof without further requiring disassembly of the chair frame assembly 14.

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0029]** Drive link 104 is supported on and rotates with drive rod 22. Specifically, drive link 104 receives drive rod 22 and is rotatably coupled thereto. Nylon washer 106 is interposed between drive link 104 and bushing 70. Transverse flange 108 extends laterally outwardly from drive link 104 and is adapted to engage the rearward edge 110 of follower link 64. Accordingly, selective rotation of drive rod 22 in a counter-clockwise direction (as shown in Figs. 5-7) rotates drive link ~~74~~104 causing transverse flange 108 to engage rear edge 110 of follower link 64, thereby rotating follower link 64 in a counter-clockwise direction. Follower link 64 which acts through pivot 102 moves support link 78. Such movement of support link 78 causes leg rest swing arm 74 to rotate about front support shaft 24 moving rear board link 94 outwardly and upwardly. In addition, the pivotally coupling of support link 98 with connection link 82 and front board

link 86 results in coordinated upward and outward movement of front board link 86. Extension of left and right hand pantograph linkages 30 is simultaneous to position the leg rest assembly from a stored or retracted position shown in Figure 5 to an extended or protracted position as shown in Figure 6.

Please replace Paragraph [0031] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0031]** Counter rotation of the drive rod 22 in the clockwise direction (as shown in Figs. 5-7) rotates drive link 104 in a clockwise direction. The rearward biasing force generated by spring member 40 of return spring mechanism 36 rotates follower link 64 in a clockwise direction to maintain contact with transverse flange 108 of drive link 104. In this manner, counter rotation of the drive rod 22 moves the pantograph linkage 30 towards the retracted position. Should the pantograph linkage 30 encounter an obstruction during counter rotation of drive rod 22, counter rotation of follower link 64 stops and transverse flange 108 of the drive link 104 disengages follower link 64 to permit continued counter rotation of drive rod 22. Further retraction of the pantograph linkage 30 is prevented since the follower link 64 and the leg rest swing arm ~~76-74~~ are journally supported on the actuation mechanism 14. Once the obstruction is removed, follower link 64 counter rotates to engage drive link 104 and the leg rest assembly 26 may be fully retracted by the return spring mechanism 36. In this manner, the motor-assisted drive rod 22 cannot power retract an obstructed leg rest assembly.